

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for preventing tipping of a flower pot formed of an open top container having a generally vertical wall formed with an upper edge portion and having a substantially [[a]] closed bottom for resting the pot upon the ground in an area where the pot may be subjected to lateral forces, ~~such as wind or physical contacts~~ which can tip the pot, comprising:

providing a retainer of a thin, bendable, but relatively stiff wire rod, formed in the form of shape of a vertically-elongated, stem portion and stiff wire rod with the stem portion having an [[its]] upper end bent downwardly into a hairpin-like formation to form a downwardly opening, inverted U-shaped hook portion; with the hook portion having one leg formed by the stem portion, and having a short leg for extending downwardly adjacent the stem portion, with the leg portions being spread apart for holding the wall upper edge portion between them while the short leg may extend downwardly into the pot and into any potting material contained in the pot while the long leg extends downwardly and outwardly relative to the pot to extend into the ground;

engaging the hook portion over the upper edge portion of the pot ~~with~~ and extending the rod extending downwardly from the hook portion closely adjacent to the outside surface of the pot wall and pushing the stem portion into the ground a sufficient distance to hold the pot against tipping.

2. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, and said wire rod being formed of a ~~forming said retainer out of a stiff, but~~ relatively resilient ~~springy~~ wire material, and arranging the hook portion to receive and resiliently grab ~~hold~~ the upper edge portion of the pot wall ~~between the legs of the pot~~.

3. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, and including providing a second retainer, similar in shape to said first mentioned retainer, and engaging the hook portion of the second retainer with the upper portion of the pot wall at a location spaced from the first mentioned retainer and then into the ground for temporarily holding the pot in a fixed position upon the ground at spaced-apart locations.

4. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, and wherein said pot has a downwardly tapered wall, and including arranging the stem closely adjacent to the side wall of the pot, at an angle corresponding to the angle of the pot wall.

5. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, and with said hook portion including ~~an elongated free leg, and~~ pushing said short leg downwardly into potting material contained in the pot when engaging the hook portion over the upper edge portion of the pot while pushing the stem portion into the ground.

6. (currently amended) A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot, which is formed with a generally vertically arranged wall having an upper edge portion and a lower edge and a substantially closed bottom attached to the pot lower edge, for arranging the pot ~~when the pot is arranged~~ upon the ground in a location where the pot may be subjected to laterally-directed ~~forced~~ forces, ~~such as wind forces or physical contact forces~~, which tend to tip the pot, comprising:

an elongated rod formed of a stiff wire-like material and being of a length greater than the height of the pot for arranging the rod generally vertically adjacent the pot;

the rod having an upper portion reversely bent into a downwardly opening hook portion for grasping and holding an upper edge portion of the pot; and

the rod having a lower stem portion of sufficient length for extending beneath the pot at the attachment of the pot wall and bottom, and into the ground a sufficient distance to rigidly hold the rod and the pot against tipping due to said laterally directed forces.

7. (currently amended) A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot as defined in claim 6, and said rod material made of resilient material ~~being springy~~ for resiliently grasping and holding ~~[[an]]~~ said upper edge portion of the pot wall ~~defining the pot~~ within the hook portion.

8. (original) A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot as defined in claim 6, wherein said pot is formed with an upper rim having an outwardly extending

band encircling the upper rim, and said retainer stem having a lower straight portion and an upper end portion bent outwardly of the lower stem portion for fitting around, and receiving, the adjacent portion of the pot band.

9. (currently amended) A retainer as defined in claim 6, and said hook being vertically elongated, and said rod material being resilient ~~springy~~ for receiving and resiliently gripping an upper edge portion of the pot wall of the pot within the hook portion.

10. (currently amended) A retainer as defined in claim 9, and said stem ~~lower portion~~ terminating in ~~[[an]]~~ a lower end shaped to penetrate the ground; ~~[[.]]~~

and said hook portion having a free leg formed with a free end shaped to penetrate and extend into material contained in the pot when the hook portion receives the upper edge portion of the pot wall.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A retainer as defined in claim 6, and said hook being formed by with a leg portions portion that ~~extend~~ extends downwardly and laterally toward the stem portion ~~each other~~ to provide ~~between them~~ a space for receiving ~~[[an]]~~ said upper edge portion of a pot, and said wire-like material being sufficiently resilient so that said ~~leg portions resiliently grip the pot portion~~ is resiliently gripped ~~positioned~~ in the ~~space between the leg portions.~~

13. (currently amended) A retainer as defined in claim 6 ~~[[12]]~~, and said hook having a hook leg portion portions extending downwardly adjacent said stem portion for receiving the upper edge portion of the pot wall, and with the hook leg having a free lower end, and the stem portion having a free lower end for respectively penetrating the contents of the pot and the ground adjacent the outside of the pot wall when the hook portion holds the edge portion of the pot wall. ~~each other a considerable distance to form an elongated hair-pin-like shape.~~

14. (cancelled)